

DRAW TENDER MOONEY STRUCK AN OFFENSIVE MAN WITH HIS BILLY

This is Testimony in City Court Today When John Gaffney is Discharged From Custody

Charges Against Mooney Will Probably be Made to Police Board and His License as Special Policeman May be Revoked—Witnesses Testify That He Was Intoxicated

Peter Mooney, drawtender of the East Washington avenue bridge, was shown in the light of a city court today when his prisoner, John Gaffney, was found not guilty of assaulting him in connection with the riotous scene at the drawbridge last Friday noon.

Not only was Gaffney exonerated, but steps were taken to have Mooney summoned before the board of Police Commissioners to show why his special policeman's authority should not be taken from him. A complaint was lodged with Prosecuting Attorney Delaney that Mooney himself was guilty of assault. Prosecutor Delaney after hearing the testimony of witnesses for both prosecution and defense, told the court he believed the story of Mooney's prisoner, Judge Wilder found Gaffney not guilty.

Mooney arrested Gaffney Saturday afternoon, recognizing him as he crossed the bridge, as one of the men who figured in the riotous scene of the day before. Gaffney secured his release on bail and promptly began summoning witnesses.

Mooney, the first witness called, testified that he was obliged in closing the draw, to bring it to a stop, because of its mechanism. There were about 15 or 20 men gathered at the end of the bridge and hurled vile language at him. When the draw was brought in contact with the abutment, he testified the crowd rushed down upon him and beat him with threats to hurl him overboard. He sought to arrest a youth named Callahan, but in the crowd his prisoner got away.

Thomas Brown, 117 Columbia street, a street sweeper, saw the man-up, but couldn't give much inside information as to the actual details. He said Mooney would have gone overboard had he not fastened his leg in the bridge fence. Arthur Seelye, the electrician at the bridge, shed new light on the drawtender's testimony when he said he saw the draw stop closing. He ran over to the cable tower to see what was wrong and could not understand what the reason was

CUPID AND STORK HAVE BUSY 1910 IN BRIDGEPORT TOWN

Births Will Exceed Deaths By 1,369 and 1,110 Couples Will be Joined in Wedding Before New Year Bells Peal

There is no race suicide in Bridgeport. In 1910 births will almost double deaths. Marriage is a habit.

The figures here given are taken from the records of the town clerk. The last half of December is estimated. The results will be fairly accurate for the year.

The deaths will reach 1,583 and births will number 2,952, so that on Jan. 1, the city will have a natural increase in population amounting to 1,369, a growth from this source alone of more than 1 per cent.

As for weddings, cupid has been busy and the prospect for next year's population is good. During eleven months 1,048 couples have been united, which is within two as many as were wed in 1909. At least 60 couples will be wedded during December.

In 1909 the births were 1,428; deaths were 2,644; weddings were 1,050. Still births were almost equal in both years, the number in 1909 being

SCARLET FEVER CLOSES SCHOOL AT MIDDLE HADDAM

(Special from United Press.)

Middle Haddam, Conn., Dec. 19.—The Center School, in this place, was closed today, by order of Health Officer G. N. Lawson, and as a guard against the spread of scarlet fever. Nine children are in the Hamilton Hospital suffering severe attacks of the disease. Several of the children attended the Center school.

The village of East Haddam, three miles from Middle Haddam, has one case of scarlet fever. The health authorities fear an epidemic of the disease.

PICTURE OF FORMER MAYOR LEE TO BE PRESENTED TONIGHT

Aldermen Clannett, Padlock and Primrose will present a picture of former Mayor Henry Lee to the city this evening. The portrait is by Photographer Henry J. Seelye, who has caught the former executive in a pleasant mood. The picture will be hung in the council chamber with the portraits of other Mayors.



DR. LOUIS SMIRNOW, Bridgeport physician, who has immortalized in fiction the destruction of St. Pierre. See story on page 4.

S. T. DAVIS IS BETTER AFTER HIS OPERATION

President of Locomobile Company Obligated to Have His Appendix Removed

At St. Vincent's hospital this afternoon, Samuel T. Davis, Jr., president of the Locomobile Company of America, who underwent an operation for appendicitis last night, was reported as doing splendidly and feeling very much better. A speedy convalescence is expected.

Mr. Davis was overcome with an attack of appendicitis very suddenly yesterday. He was removed in the auto ambulance to the hospital last evening and Dr. Charles H. Beck, a New York specialist, was summoned and performed the operation with the assistance of Drs. Geoffrey Blodgett, Bill and Finn of the hospital staff.

P. O. CLERKS WANT SHORT WORK DAY

Also Desire Pension for Superannuated Postal Employees

Post office employees who are members of the United National Association of Post Office Clerks are much interested in the progress of the Wilson act 48 hours a week bill, now pending in Congress, which provides that no clerk shall work over eight hours a day, six days a week, without extra compensation. At present the clerks work seven days a week, in many instances, and their hours are unregulated. If necessary to move the mail they can be required to work 24 hours a day. If they work less than eight hours a day their pay is cut.

The clerks are also interested in the Goulden bill for the retirement of superannuated clerks, which provides for a pension. They are opposed to the salary of each clerk for the superannuation fund. The Bridgeport office has little to complain of as regards hours or pay. But there are offices in which many aged clerks are employed and where much overtime is required.

ACTOR HERE, KNOCKED DOWN BY EXPLOSION

Member of Vaudeville Team at Poli's Sickened by Horrifying Sights in New York

Completely unnerved by the shock of the terrific explosion in New York this morning, Samuel Kramer, of the team of athletes, Kramer & Spillane, at Poli's, was sickened by the horrifying sights in New York.

Kramer was walking along Lexington avenue, near the Grand Central station, when the blow-up occurred. Kramer was tossed bodily against an other pedestrian and both fell into the street. Kramer's hat being thrown several yards from where he stood.

He saw the Lexington avenue car crash over upon a passing automobile, and said the chauffeur who was killed, was tossed fully 20 feet from his machine by the force of the explosion.

Kramer was hurrying to catch a train. As he ran into the station he passed stretcher after stretcher carrying the dead and wounded out to meet the ambulances, and he was so sickened that he was able with difficulty to superintend the arrangement of his apparatus when he reached the theatre this afternoon.

Locomotive Factory Is Spottless Town

Rumors that J. P. Morgan and representatives of the Packard Automobile Company are soon to visit the factory of the Locomobile Company of America, were rife in that plant today, due to the fact that an order was put into effect Saturday for the cleaning of the plant as it has never been cleaned before.

The factory is today a veritable "Spottless town," and you could eat your dinner from any machine. It was stated at the factory that the cleanliness is for the sake of cleanliness, and has no ulterior object.

FEARFUL EXPLOSION IN GRAND CENTRAL CUT KILLS 17, HURTS 50 AND SMASHES BUILDINGS

ACETYLENE GAS AND DYNAMITE, IGNITED BY THIRD RAIL SPARK, IN TERRIFIC DETONATION

Earliness of Hour Prevents Loss of Life From Being Infinitely Greater—Force of Crash Wrecks Buildings Within Wide Radius—Power House of New Haven Road Smashed—Parochial School of St. Patrick's Cathedral a Wreck—Scenes of Horror as Dead and Injured Are Dragged From the Debris—Cause of Disaster a Mystery But Believed to Have Been Due to Explosion of Car Tank of Gas, Which in Turn Detonated Quantity of Dynamite Stored For Elastig Work

NEW YORK, DEC. 19.—NINE PERSONS ARE DEAD, EIGHT ARE MISSING AND SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD, AND 50 INJURED WERE TAKEN TO HOSPITALS, AS THE RESULT OF A MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION WHICH WRECKED THE MILK DEPOT AND CARPENTER SHOP OF THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILWAY, AT 40TH STREET AND LEXINGTON AVENUE, TODAY. SO TERRIFIC WAS THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION THAT THE BIG POWER HOUSE OF THE NEW HAVEN RAILROAD, WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY BEHIND THE DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE, WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY DESTROYED, WHILE ALL ADJACENT PROPERTY WAS BADLY BATTERED AND WINDOWS IN ALL BUILDINGS FOR A RADIUS OF A DOZEN BLOCKS WERE BLOWN OUT.

NINE ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN KILLED OUTRIGHT; EIGHT MORE ARE MISSING AND PROBABLY DEAD, AND SEVERAL OF THE INJURED MAY EXPIRE SO THAT THE TOTAL DEATH-LIST WILL PROBABLY BE NOT FAR FROM 20.

It was at first reported that the explosion was in the boiler house. Later this was proved a mistake and then the officials of the railroad and the police heard that it was due either to the explosion of a quantity of acetylene gas or dynamite. A report was that switches running a car loaded with dynamite to be used for the excavation of the New York Central terminal into the depot lost control of it and it smashed against a track bumper and caused the explosion. The police later said that the explosion was probably caused by the ignition of a tank containing acetylene gas which was in the car.

It was not until they said, by a spark from the third rail. This explosion caused the blowing up of the car laden with dynamite. The car was owned by the Terry & Tench Contracting Co., which is building the New York Central terminal, and officials of the railroad said that the explosion was caused by the fact that the concussion wrecked the big parochial school of St. Patrick's Cathedral at 51st street and Lexington avenue, and that the explosion was caused by the fact that the concussion wrecked the big parochial school of St. Patrick's Cathedral at 51st street and Lexington avenue, and that the explosion was caused by the fact that the concussion wrecked the big parochial school of St. Patrick's Cathedral at 51st street and Lexington avenue.

William Peetschke, Thomas Stagg, the three latter were workmen at the Grand Central.

At 1 o'clock no further bodies had been recovered. Firemen and laborers were reaching the ruins but because of the complete destruction of the building this was a difficult task, and Chief Croker said it would be several hours before it would be known positively whether the bodies of those reported missing are buried under the debris.

Policeman Francis Kelly, who was a passenger on the wrecked Lenox and Lexington avenue car, was twice reported dead, but in Flower hospital, critically injured. I was buried.

Kelly was one of the heroes of the accident. To a United Press representative this afternoon, he said: "I was standing on the back platform of the car and happened to be looking directly at the building. I saw a flash of smoke, just like you would see in a dynamite explosion. I was hurled off the car, which I saw lifted off the track and thrown over on a passing car."

"For a moment I was stunned. I saw men and women imprisoned in the car, unable to get out and fainting. I was the last to get out. I saw them. I managed to pull one dead woman out of the car. The second man I dragged out seemed to be dead. Then I fainted and remember nothing till I was brought here."

Kelly's left lung was punctured and he received a severe gash in his neck and bad scalp wounds, but the physicians declare he may recover. Of the twenty persons sent to Flower hospital, three have died and are dying. Chief Croker, after a careful investigation of the explosion, said that he thought it was due to pincush gas and that dynamite was not a factor.

"I have examined the men who were at work when the disaster happened," he said, "and have found that the gas explosion was entirely responsible. There is a three inch pipe laid outside of the tracks here, which is used to fill the tanks of the Pullman cars, which are side-tracked here. The switching crew periodically some cars to overturn their distance today, and the forward car smashed the gas pipe. The flow of gas poured into the depot alongside, and instead of shutting off the gas at the tank, the workmen tried to fix the break. When mixed with air, pincush gas is far more powerful as an explosive than dynamite. One of the workmen, trying to test out the broken length of pipe, dropped his wrench on the third rail. There was a short circuit and the sparks ignited the gas and caused the explosion."

The elements themselves have succored on the Connecticut Company and its street railway system filled with water and inefficiency. In no other way can trolley workers account for the two accidents that delayed the cars today, and the Congress street bridge went wrong and that made more trouble.

Supt. C. H. Chapman, who is doing the best he can, heaved a sigh of relief at noon today as he announced that all the generator units in the power house are again in use. He hopes that nothing will happen to them now until the holiday season is over at least.

TROLLEY CARS LEAVE BARN AN HOUR LATE

Coroner Ed Wilson's secret inquest, followed by his exoneration of the Yale students concerned in the fatal auto crash which cost the life of Mrs. Jessica Saunders, is meeting with universal disapproval is shown by condemnation on all sides. The Bridgeport remarks editorially this morning:

"There is much sympathy for Motorist's Society, who have been left to bear the brunt of responsibility for the fatal accident to an automobile by which one woman lost her life and another was seriously injured. Many experienced motorists are of the opinion that there was contributor negligence upon the part of the driver of the auto and that he failed to make allowances for the dangers of the road he was traversing. It is a bitter pill for those of those who witnessed the affair to think that the Yale student Peabody, who was driving the auto, should have been held until the evidence could be more thoroughly sifted. It is pointed out that men and women who go on midnight joy rides are rarely sober, that the places at which they call for refreshment are not temperance houses and that it is not unjust to suppose that the two students had acted after the manner of their kind. All that the motorist says about the curve in the road which hindered the headlight of the trolley car from disclosing the proximity of the auto in time to prevent disaster is fully borne out by those who are familiar with the neighborhood. There is a general opinion that Peabody got his automobile fast on the track and that being in a daze condition he was unable to manipulate it with sufficient skill to enable the party to escape. On the other hand, the evidence he was taking chances, and if he had quickly got out of the way at the approach of the car of the motorist, the whole trouble might have been avoided. Motorist's Society's statement that the accident arose through Peabody's lack of activity seems to have some show of reason. To outsiders it looks like a case of 'what blunder was, to say the least, evenly divided."

"The charge of manslaughter upon which the motorist is held is a very serious one and it is certain to be an expensive matter."

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SUPERIOR COURT WILL CLEAN UP BY CHRISTMAS

Balog, Carroll and Rockman Cases Probably Will Come up This Week

It is probable that the present term of the Superior court, in session since the first Tuesday of the month, will finish its work this week. State's Attorney Stiles Judson and his assistant, Galen A. Carter, will make a determined effort during the next four days to complete the docket before the holidays.

When the court comes to tomorrow morning, arguments will be completed in the case of John Kargman, charged with attempting to defraud an insurance company. The case will then go to the jury. Following will come the case of John Balog of Black Rock, charged with setting fire to his home in order to collect the insurance, also James Haddad, who after attempting to set fire to the store at 2031 Main street, was charged with attempting to defraud Sergeant William O'Leary when apprehended. He had two counts against him, one for attempted arson and the other for assault with intent to kill.

The case of John R. Carroll, the Brooklyn youth who brought Ruth Dressell to this city and placed her in Frank Herman's hotel in Bank street will tomorrow answer to the charge of placing a minor in a house of ill fame.

The case of Gustav Rockman, charged with rape is set for trial for Wednesday.

MAYOR'S VETO WILL PROBABLY BE SUSTAINED

Indications are that Mayor Buckingham will be sustained, tonight, in his veto of the proposed widening of Congress street on the north side, at a cost of about \$70,000 to the city. To sustain the veto a few more votes are necessary; to override it 13 are necessary.

A public sentiment is so overwhelmingly opposed to the proposed widening that it is evident that if the matter was submitted to the people the mayor would be sustained by a big majority. Only a few are in favor of the proposition and led by certain interests who had much to gain by the measure an effort has been made to lobby the matter through the Common Council.

Action on the veto was postponed at the last meeting in order to give the new members of the council a chance to study the situation.

WEATHER INDICATIONS.

New Haven, Dec. 19.—Forecast: rain or snow tonight, or Tuesday colder. Brisk south and southwest winds shifting to northwest late tonight or Tuesday and probably becoming high.

UNCLASSIFIED

- GIRL WANTED for the holidays and perhaps after, to work in store, 1130 Main St. a
- PAINTER WANTED to contract or by day. Lamson, 2389 Fairfield Ave. Tel. 3537. a
- TO LET—Parlors, suitable for a doctor's office, also furnished rooms, lot of about same value. Call or Enquire of Joseph P. Coughlin, 331 Fairfield Ave. a
- WANTED—Two old seal coats in good shape, fur, hats, muffs, etc. Julius Tesny, 867 Main St. T 19 b o
- CLANCY'S CAFE, Poll Bldg., Fairfield Ave. is the place for you to get your bottled goods for the holidays. Fine free lunch all the time. a
- FOR SALE—\$200 new upright piano for \$150. Fitch Piano Co., 844 Noble Ave. T 13 d o
- TO RENT—Five nice pleasant rooms, second floor, all improvements, new house, \$18.00, 904 Seaview Ave. Enquire of Joseph P. Coughlin. T 5 t o
- WILL EXCHANGE a new Player Piano, value \$500.00, for a building lot of about same value. Call or address Eckler & Co., 968 Main street. a
- DO YOU LIVE IN A CELLAR? If not cover pipes and boiler and save the cost in coal. J. F. Welsh, 114 Kosuth St. T 5 t o 13 b
- GUINEA HENS, ducks, roasting chickens, broilers, fowl, liver put in sausage meat, boiled, etc. L. J. B. 15 13 b o
- FRAT'S CAFE, 137 Fairfield Ave., is sure to have what you want in ales, wines and liquors. Do not forget the fine free lunch served daily. Q 28 t 13 b o
- AUTOMOBILE TIRES—All half lat price, new and second hand casings and tubes of all makes and sizes. Ford's Garage, 455 Stratford Ave. T 16 s o
- FOR SALE—Electric piano mandolin, banjo attachments. Played by electricity or hand. Push button or nickel slide, used only for exhibition. For home or public place. Will sell at great sacrifice. Russell, Broad and State Sts., care of Wissner. T 13 s o
- LOST—Bank Book No. 34747 on People's Savings Bank. Any person having claims upon said book is called upon to present the same to the bank within thirty days, or said book will be declared cancelled and extinguished, and a new one issued in lieu thereof. T 12 s p 111
- WE ARE NOW on the home stretch, with our tan rubber coats in the lead, at O'Neill's. a
- FOR SALE—Violins, all sizes, from \$2 up to \$100. Cellos \$15 up to \$150. Easy payments. Fitch Piano Co., 844 Noble Ave. T 13 d o
- TO THOSE INTERESTED in the wonderful development of Terry Farms we will send a description booklet, 24 craftmen house plans, fully illustrated. Terry Farms, 307 Newfield Building. T 16 t o
- TO RENT—Two tenements, 6 rooms each, all improvements, 319-321 Connecticut Ave. Enquire of Anderson & Co. or Joseph P. Coughlin. T 6 t o
- STEINWAY PIANO \$150, used a short time. Fitch Piano Co., 844 Noble Ave. T 13 d o
- TO RENT—New building, store, also first floor with two fine front rooms suitable for a hotel and 4 living rooms, bathroom, fine plumbing, steam heat furnished at 300 Fairfield Ave. across from Blue Ribbon Garage. T 17 d o
- FOR SALE—Bargain prices, Steinway, Mathushek, Demarest, and Ivers & Pond square pianos, Eley and Worcester organs. Dial & Lee, 84 Cannon St. G 24 t o
- STORE TO RENT—17 ft. by 42 ft., 177 Fairfield avenue, Farmer building. For particulars call at Farmer Office. L 11 t o
- JOIN the Casca Laxine tablet users. Great for constipation. 25c. L 11 o
- BRATWURST better than ever at Mark Nagel's, 652 E. Main St. T 13 t o
- AT FRITZ G. HARTMANN'S stuffed and baked chickens, 417 Main street, a specialty. 126 Wall St. L 12 t o
- GOOD SECOND HAND National Cash Register for sale cheap. Address P. O. Box 16, City. S 9 t o
- APPOINT the corner of Fairfield Ave. and Water St. McPadden's Cafe, F. & M. Schaefer N. Y. Old German Brew, Weiner Beer, M. McPadden, agent. Fine lunch all day. Prime Roast of Beef Saturday, 4:30. G 22 t o
- WE HAVE THE BEST makes of pianos, new and second hand, Chickering, McPhail, Milton, Howard, Bordman, Wessner, Steinway, Keller. We will sell these pianos at a discount of \$100. Easy payments. We take your piano or organ in exchange. \$30 buys a upright piano. Fitch Piano Co., 844 Noble Ave. T 13 d o